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INDIANA SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

REPORT OF THE STATE HISTORIAN, OCTOBER 12, 1909.

THE chapters, from their reports, show a healthy vigor and growth along historic lines. Their programs are worthy of a place with the programs of literary clubs. The zeal and interest in patriotic education; in locating and marking the graves of Revolutionary soldiers and other historic spots; the steady and patient endeavor to Americanize our foreign newcomers—all this work, so dear to the hearts of our most American Hoosiers, is growing and strengthening daily.

One strong indication of this growth is the wonderful formation of new chapters; thirty-seven counties are now represented by the forty-five chapters that have been established in our State since the work was begun in 1894 by Mrs. Chapin C. Foster, our first State Regent. The history of our earlier years shows what uphill work was this forming of chapters; but as each chapter is established it does its part in a very important branch of patriotic education—the spreading of the spirit of patriotism among our own people. As each chapter is formed, the near neighbors' ambition is aroused, and now it has almost become a question whether our State Regent shall organize at once, or form a waiting list and organize as fast as she can get around to them.

In July your historian sent a circular letter to each regent asking the cooperation of the chapters in collecting fragmentary history of early Indiana, accounts of early settlers, court-house records, old letters and documents. This letter has already met with a generous response from several chapters.

The Manitou Chapter of Rochester has a member, Marguerite Miller, who had already collected and printed in book form biographical sketches of the early settlers of Fulton county—not hearsay accounts, but the story of these early lives and struggles with the hardships in the wilderness by the very people who experienced them. It is a splendid piece of work.

Mary Penrose Wayne Chapter, of Fort Wayne, has sent me a similar publication, "Reminiscences of Old Fort Wayne by Those Who Know."

A week after these letters were sent out, without having heard of the work your historian was endeavoring to induce others to take up, I was assigned by the Indiana Historical Society the editing of a pamphlet containing the "Assessment List of Indianapolis, 1835," together with a biographical sketch of the assessor, George M. Lockerbie. The preparation of this sketch brought to light many interesting and valuable incidents connected with the early history of Indianapolis.

Also, shortly after the circular letters were well on their way, Mrs. Mortimer Levering, who within the year has written a book on early Indiana, wrote me suggesting that the Daughters start this work in Indiana. All this goes to show that the wave of historical research which enthusiastic Daughters started eighteen years ago is still rolling over our land, and that Indiana Daughters are not out of its track.

ELIZA G. BROWNING,
State Historian.